

Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Area, 30,609 Acres ; Population, 5822 (1901).

Annual * Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1906.

THE Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants, is situated in the Valley of the Test, and consists of Three Divisions, viz., Whitchurch, Overton and St. Mary Bourne, each with some adjoining Parishes. The occupation of the Inhabitants is mainly Agricultural, but a certain number are employed in a Paper Mill, a Jam Factory and Slop-work (Clothing), also a few in a small Silk Mill.

REGISTERED BIRTHS--

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	68
Overton	...	...	...	...	42
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	27
Total	...	...	...	...	137

DEATHS--

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	39
Overton	...	...	...	...	19
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	16
Total	...	...	...	...	74

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE--

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	4
Overton	...	...	...	...	4
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	10

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS--

Whitchurch Workhouse	9
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Comparing this with the previous year we have --

BIRTHS--					1905.	1906.
Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	74	68
Overton	...	...	...	...	38	42
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	23	27
Total	...	...	...	...	135	137
DEATHS--					1905.	1906.
Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	33	39
Overton	...	...	...	...	17	19
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	11	16
					61	74

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—					1905.	1906.
Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	4	4
Overton	...	...	...	...	2	4
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	1	2
Total					7	10
DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—					1905.	1906.
Whitchurch Workhouse	...	...	...	...	4	9
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	1	0
Total					5	9
DEATH RATES FOR WHOLE DISTRICT—					1905.	1906.
General	...	...	...	...	10·4	12·7
Infant	...	...	...	...	51·8	72·9

BIRTH RATE PER 1000 OF POPULATION—1905, 23·1; 1906, 23·5.

On comparing the statistics on Table I., annexed, with the average of the past ten years it will be seen that the number of Births in the whole district has fallen from 158·2, or a rate of 27·53, to 137, or a rate of 23·5; and that the Deaths, which averaged 74·6, or a rate of 12·96, are for this year 74, or a rate of 12·7, a trifle under the average, though higher than the previous two years; but it is satisfactory to find that the Deaths of Infants under one year of age has fallen from an average of 16·6, or a rate of 103·84, to 10, or a rate of 72·9, though this is higher than the previous year.

With regard to the Infant Mortality it should be noticed that the Table V. introduced last year (1905), showing the causes of Death of Children under one year of age and the number of Illegitimate Births, shows that of the ten Infant Deaths three were under one month, two of them being due to Debility from Birth, and that the Illegitimate Births number 7; of these latter three occurred in Whitchurch, none in Overton, and four in St. Mary Bourne. Two Deaths of Illegitimate Infants occurred during the year, one each in Whitchurch and St. Mary Bourne.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, adopted February, 1890, shows the following results:—

WHITCHURCH—

Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	16
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total						22

OVERTON	0
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

ST. MARY BOURNE—

Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						2

Total in Rural District, 24.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 0.

The following is the return of new cases of Sickness attended as Paupers by the Medical Officer of each District during the Year:—

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	...	126
Overton	...	...	...	...	...	131
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	...	54

Of which Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Whooping Cough, Influenza and a few cases of Diarrhœa form the chief features, also six cases of Scarlet Fever.

With regard to the health of the District it may be said to have been good generally, but the List of Deaths is swollen by the number of old people, 17 being over 80 years of age.

INFLUENZA occurred at intervals, chiefly in the earlier and later months of the year.

BRONCHITIS and PNEUMONIA caused jointly 22 deaths.

SCARLET FEVER, which returned to Whitchurch in July, 1905, without any apparent reason, has still hovered about; one case being notified in January; four in April, three of them being of one family and the other a relative; two in May, one of which at an outlying part may have had some connection with the previous cases, the other quite distinct; in July three cases, one on the 6th from the house of the outlying case and the others in different parts of Whitchurch; on August 25th a case in another part of Whitchurch, and on August 27th one at an outlying place in an opposite direction; on November 6th a case in another part of Whitchurch, and on November 10th one in another part; on November 13th the mother of the case of November 6th, and on December 9th the Nurse at the Workhouse, from which it will be seen that it has been very erratic. All these cases, 16 in number, were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. It is worthy of note that the type of Scarlet Fever has of late years been much less severe than formerly, a fact which is probably due to the improved sanitary conditions under which the people live; though this very advantage has the disadvantage of probably leaving unrecognised cases in our midst as unknown sources of infection.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case of a child 12 years of age was notified from Whitchurch on August 13, and was probably due to certain insanitary conditions in and around the house which the Council ordered the owner to remedy. Another case was notified from another part of Whitchurch on September 1, and was undoubtedly contracted elsewhere; this case was admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

MEASLES was imported to a family in Whitchurch in March, and several members of the family contracted it, but there was no further spread of the disease.

WHOOPING COUGH was prevalent in the Overton District in April and May, chiefly affecting the scholars of the Ashe School, and necessitating the closing of the school for six weeks.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case at St. Mary Bourne into which I made full enquiry and visited the premises with the Medical Attendant, but found nothing special to account for it, though the surroundings of the Cottage required to be improved, and the Inspector of Nuisances subsequently dealt with the matter.

During the year 17 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, viz., 16 Scarlet Fever and 1 Enteric. The Hospital is provided by the District Council and its accommodation is sufficient.

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing where infectious disease has occurred has been carefully carried out by the Sanitary Officer and disinfectants supplied as required.

PHTHISIS caused nine deaths, viz., four in Whitchurch, four in Overton and one in St. Mary Bourne; and CANCER 3, viz., two in Whitchurch and one in St. Mary Bourne. Where deaths occur from these diseases disinfection and cleansing of house and premises are strongly recommended. To combat these diseases, as also many others, houses should be kept in as sanitary a condition as possible, well lighted and ventilated, not overcrowded, and defective drainage of soil remedied to avoid damp.

As regards DRAINAGE there is no regular System of Sewerage, but in the more populous places in Whitchurch and Overton, through which the River Test flows, drains and gutters have been laid for the conveyance of surface water, usually to the river. Into these a good deal of foul matter from the roads finds its way, and also slop water from sinks and back premises, but in no instance is any closet known to connect with these drains, though there are still some few privies over the river which it would be well to get rid of. The gutters

in some places are flat and allow accumulation of refuse which at times becomes offensive, especially if the cleansing should not be sufficiently attended to by the scavenger of the locality. The inhabitants might assist in preventing any nuisance from this cause by flushing with a pail of water and sweeping the gutter in front of their houses. The plan for flushing certain drains in Whitchurch by means of an inlet from the river still appears to work well, and the springs which flow into the drain in a part of its course aid in keeping it clean with the help of the scavenger.

The WATER SUPPLY of the district is by wells and tube pumps, the latter being on the increase yearly, and more attention is paid to the covering of wells and raising of kerbs so as to avoid pollution from surface water. Samples of water have been examined from time to time and defects made good, certificates for new houses being granted as required.

The DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT in the district is mainly on the pail system or cemented vaults, and the contents are ordered to be emptied at regular intervals by the scavenger of the localities of Whitchurch and Overton and carted away, the St. Mary Bourne locality not requiring a scavenger. House refuse and rubbish is also removed by the scavenger in Whitchurch and Overton.

PIGGERIES near dwelling houses have as usual been dealt with from time to time by the Inspector of Nuisances.

The SLAUGHTER HOUSES have been inspected and cleansed as required.

The DAIRIES and COWSHEDS have been inspected and improvements made as to cleanliness, ventilation and drainage, in conformity with the model regulations of the Local Government Board, which came into operation in January, 1905, but there is still room for improvement.

The BAKEHOUSES have been inspected, whitewashing and sanitation attended to as required and one improved. There is no Underground Bakehouse in the district.

Several Old Cottages have been Whitewashed and Repaired, and it is to be hoped that the Owners may shortly see fit to repair others which need it.

Many of the Cottages are too small and incommodious for the number in the family, so leading to overcrowding, which it is difficult to abate, as there is a lack of larger cottages.

Several New Houses have been built in different parts of the district. There is no supervision over the erection of new houses, and drainage sometimes subsequently becomes a difficulty, as for instance certain houses in Whitchurch, a report of which has been more than once before your Council, to which improvement has now been made, which it is hoped will prove satisfactory.

INSPECTIONS have been made under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, attention given to cleanliness and sanitary conditions and to dwellings of Homeworkers, especially with regard to infectious illness, of which there has been none amongst them during the year. Section 22 of the Public Healths Act Amendment Act, 1890, is not in force in this district, but the sanitary accommodation appears to be sufficient and suitable. One Workroom has been closed during the year.

When Infectious Illness has occurred in a house the children have been kept from school by notice to the teachers.

The Elementary Schools in the district were improved and put into a good sanitary condition, with improved water supply, during 1905.

Many Inspections of the District have been made, both systematic and otherwise, and reports made to your Council of matters to be dealt with, which have now been attended to.

During the year complaints were frequent as to the condition of the Streets in Whitechurch and Overton. It should be observed that the modern method of road-making, whereby a quantity of dirt, practically road scraping, with all it contains, is brought into the streets and rolled down with the stones, creating a vast amount of mud in winter and wet weather, and an intolerable amount of dust in the summer which, mixed with the pulverised horse droppings, &c., is blown backwards and forwards with the wind, and raised into a cloud by passing motor cars, and is carried into the houses of residents, the shops and over food exposed for sale, and into the provision carts standing in the streets. In June I recommended to your Council that the streets should be cleansed and efficiently watered, with the result that a fresh contract was entered into with the scavengers of Whitechurch and Overton to the effect that the streets should be cleansed from the droppings and other rubbish. The watering of the streets in Whitechurch was subsequently better attended to, though it is desirable that it be commenced earlier in the season, and more efficiently done in the future, as this impregnated dust must be detrimental to health, and is obnoxious to pedestrians.

During the year I have, as usual, been in constant communication with the Inspector of Nuisances, who has rendered much valuable assistance, and has submitted the following report and summary of work carried out under his supervision by order of the District Council and Medical Officer of Health :—

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been under inspection, and with one exception kept in a satisfactory state. In some considerable improvement has been made in the drainage, and other matters requiring attention remedied. There is still room for further improvements to be made in some sheds. There appears to be more interest taken by the owners of Cowsheds and Dairies as to keeping them in a more wholesome and sanitary state than formerly. A few old privies with offensive pits have been the cause of some difficulty, but these are now gradually disappearing and the pail system substituted, abating an offensive nuisance.

Cottages White-washed and Repaired	...	...	...	31
„ Disinfected	...	...	...	25
Bedding, &c., Disinfected	...	...	...	19
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	...	1
Wells Cleaned Out	...	...	...	5
„ New Kerbs	...	...	...	7
Closets—New	...	...	...	9
„ Repaired and Improved	...	...	...	15
Certificates for Water Supply Granted	...	...	...	17
Public Pumps Repaired	...	...	...	11
Drains Repaired and Improved	...	...	...	12
New Frames to Catchpits	...	...	...	1
Slaughter Houses Inspected	...	...	...	4
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	...	15
„ „ Registered	...	...	...	1
Factory and Workshops Inspected	...	...	...	3
Outworkers' Rooms Inspected	...	...	...	26
School Premises Inspected	...	...	...	3
Pigs Removed	...	...	...	4
Pigsties Cleansed	...	...	...	16
Inspections and Visits made	...	...	...	215

Signed, JOHN BUTCHER, Inspector of Nuisances.

And I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

HENRY HEMSTED,

Medical Officer of Health,

R.D., Whitechurch, Hants.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WHITCHURCH, HANTS.

January 19, 1907.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1906 and Previous Years.**WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.**

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	5658	169	29·8	16	94·2	71	12·5	5	No INFORMATION.		71	12·5
1897	5658	174	30·7	22	126·4	95	16·7	12			95	16·7
1898	5658	182	32·1	25	137·3	95	16·7	10			95	16·7
1899	5658	169	29·8	14	82·8	64	11·3	2			64	11·3
1900	5658	151	26·6	16	105·9	78	13·7	6			78	13·7
1901	5822	152	26·1	17	111·8	77	13·2	8			77	13·2
1902	5822	148	25·4	16	108·0	60	10·3	3			60	10·3
1903	5822	146	25·0	20	136·9	82	14·0	8			82	14·0
1904	5822	156	26·7	13	83·3	63	10·8	7			63	10·8
1905	5822	135	23·1	7	51·8	61	10·4	5			61	10·4
Averages for years 1896-1905.	5740·0	158·2	27·53	16·6	103·84	74·6	12·96	6·6			74·6	12·96
1906	5822	137	23·5	10	72·9	74	12·7	9			74	12·7

*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609.

Total population at all ages (at Census of 1901)—5822.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1906 and previous years.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT. 1.				WHITCHURCH DIVISION AND WORKHOUSE. 2.				OVERTON DIVISION. 3.				ST. MARY B. URNE DIVISION. 4.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1896 ...	5658	169	71	16	2958	77	35	8	1668	66	21	5	1032	26	15	3
1897 ...	5658	174	95	22	2958	86	52	8	1668	59	25	11	1032	29	18	3
1898 ...	5658	182	95	25	2958	71	49	6	1668	80	34	14	1032	31	12	5
1899 ...	5658	169	64	14	2958	85	29	5	1668	57	26	8	1032	27	9	1
1900 ...	5658	151	78	16	2958	72	42	7	1668	47	21	9	1032	32	15	0
1901 ...	5822	152	77	17	2974	69	43	9	1671	57	19	5	1177	26	15	3
1902 ...	5822	148	60	16	2974	69	30	9	1671	44	15	3	1177	35	15	4
1903 ...	5822	146	82	20	2974	72	45	12	1671	49	22	7	1177	25	15	1
1904 ...	5822	156	63	13	2974	65	35	7	1671	55	13	5	1177	36	15	1
1905 ...	5822	135	61	7	2974	74	33	4	1671	38	17	2	1177	23	11	1
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905 ...	5740.0	158.2	74.6	16.6	2966.0	74.0	39.3	7.5	1669.5	55.2	21.3	6.9	1104.5	29.0	14.0	2.2
1906 ...	5822	137	74	10	2974	68	39	4	1671	42	19	4	1177	27	16	2

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1906.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Whitchurch Division W. & H.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.	Whitchurch Division W. & H.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Erysipelas ...	5	...	...	...	1	4	...	4	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	16	...	2	8	3	3	...	16	...	...	16	...	...
Enteric Fever...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	24	...	2	9	5	8	...	22	...	2	17	...	...

Isolation Hospital: Whitchurch, Hants.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Whitchurch Division.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Diarrhœa ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) }	9	...	...	...	3	6	...	4	4	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	1	1
Bronchitis ...	16	...	2	...	...	2	12	10	4	2	3
Pneumonia ...	6	...	2	...	...	3	1	3	3	...	...
Pleurisy ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs }	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...
Heart diseases ...	6	...	...	2	...	3	1	4	...	2	...
Accidents ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Suicides ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...
Debility from Birth ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
All other causes...	20	2	4	...	...	2	12	10	4	6	5
All causes ...	74	10	9	2	3	18	32	39	19	16	9

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.**Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.****WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—2 Months.	2—3 Months.	3—4 Months.	4—5 Months.	5—6 Months.	6—7 Months.	7—8 Months.	8—9 Months.	9—10 Months.	10—11 Months.	11—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES—																	
Certified ...	3	...	...	...	3	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	10
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>Diarrhœal Diseases—</i>																	
Diarrhœa, all forms }	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Enteritis, „ Mucos, „ Gastro- }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh }	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Wasting Diseases</i>																	
Atrophy Debility Marasmus }	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other Causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	3	...	...	...	3	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	10

Births in the Year ... Legitimate, 130 ; Illegitimate, 7.

Deaths in the Year ... Legitimate 8 ; Illegitimate, 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 74. Population (estimated to the middle of 1906) 5822.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1906 on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.	2.—DEFECTS FOUND.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... 3	No Nuisances under the Public Health Acts. Section 22 not adopted, Sanitary Accommodation Sufficient.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) 1	
Homeworkers' Premises 26	
Total 30	

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Homework Lists Received 2, Outworkers 54.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year ... 2.

